

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

It is my pleasure to transmit herewith the Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Arts for Fiscal Year 1997.

The Arts Endowment awards more than a thousand grants each year to non-profit arts organizations for projects which touch the lives of millions of Americans. While it would take several books to detail the profound effects of Arts Endowment support on our citizens and communities, this single year's report of grants displays the sprawling diversity of our nation's culture and reveals the unfettered creativity of our artists.

From seeing a classic production at a theater in Connecticut to visiting an art museum in Arizona, from hearing symphony musicians in an Iowa school to participating in a fine arts training program for inner-city students in Louisiana, people who benefit from Arts Endowment grants have made the arts an integral part of their lives. They know that the ability to create and sustain art must be developed and nurtured.

Arts Endowment grants in 1997 continue the agency's tradition of supporting:

- projects in theater, dance, music, visual arts, and the other artistic disciplines, demonstrating that our diversity is an asset—and helping us to interpret the past, understand each other in the present, and envision the future;
- folk and traditional arts programs, which strengthen and display our rich cultural heritage; and
- arts education, which fuels our children's skills, intellect, and fullness of life.

We take pride in the power of imagination that animates and sustains our democracy. We are, and always will be, a nation of creators and innovators. This small agency fosters the creativity that has made democracy the call heard around the world. May it long continue to preserve such creativity and freedom.



William J. Clinton
President of the United States